

PREFACE

This *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region* (Basin Plan) results from the combination and revision of two separate Basin Plans, for the North and South Lahontan Basins, which were adopted in 1975. The 1975 plans were prepared by different consulting firms, and although the final versions of both reflected the input of Regional Board staff, they had different emphases and organization. Both plans underwent a number of amendments between 1975 and 1991, but neither was ever reprinted with amendments integrated into the text. This Basin Plan also incorporates important provisions of the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board's) *Lake Tahoe Basin Water Quality Plan* and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency's *Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region*.

This Basin Plan was prepared almost entirely by Regional Board staff, using an interdisciplinary approach (see the List of Preparers, Appendix A). Staff's goals in revising the 1975 plans were as follows:

1. *Production of a functional regulatory document.* As Chapter 1 explains, the Basin Plan is the basis for the Regional Board's entire regulatory program. It must explain clearly to staff, to dischargers, and to the general public, the actions considered necessary by the Regional Board to protect and enhance water quality in the Lahontan Region.
2. *Simplification*, to eliminate unnecessary detail while providing a sound technical background for water quality standards and control measures. This Plan includes more literature citations in the text. It also deletes descriptive information which was not formally part of 1975 plans.
3. *Update* of less controversial portions of the plans to reflect changes in state and federal legislation since 1975, accomplishments of 1975 plan goals, and new regulatory emphases such as wetlands and toxic substances control. This Plan also includes updates of water quality standards and implementation measures for selected watersheds.
4. *Fulfillment of State Board direction* to resolve

remaining inconsistencies between the two Lake Tahoe Basin water quality plans, and to incorporate their most important provisions into the Regional Board's Basin Plan. Following approval of this new Lahontan Basin Plan, the State Board may consider rescinding the separate *Lake Tahoe Basin Water Quality Plan*.

5. *Facilitation of future revisions*, by use of a loose-leaf format, and by placing the entire Plan on computer diskettes.
6. *Editing*, to correct typographical errors and make the plan more readable.

Public participation has been an important part of the planning process. Responses to public comments are part of the record of the planning process. The Regional Board maintains and periodically updates mailing lists of persons, agencies, and organizations interested in receiving notices of public hearings and workshops for future Basin Plan amendments. Those who wish to be added to Regional Board mailing lists should contact either Regional Board office.

Copies of this Plan and of future amendments will be distributed to county libraries throughout the Lahontan Region, to the State library, and to university libraries or water resources archives. The Plan and related documents may be examined at the Regional Board's offices during normal business hours.

For information on purchasing copies of this plan, contact either office of the Regional Water Quality Control Board:

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